



Success stories spur students

November 1, 2012



Late last month, 100 students gathered at Luna Community College in Las Vegas, NM, for the Accelerate: Technical Training and Job Placement Program fall mixer. During the event, attendees had an opportunity to interact with each other, participate in mock job interviews and hear from a host of panelists on the problems they had to overcome to complete their educations and succeed in their careers.

One of the panelists, Vangie Trujillo of the Lab's Community Programs Office, welcomed the opportunity to try to inspire the students. "One of the things it seemed helpful for them to hear was that all the panelists had faced challenges at one time or another," she said. "Sometimes, just hearing what other people have had to overcome reminds us that perseverance can often mean the difference between success and failure."

As part of its program, Accelerate provides career technical advisors at each of the participating schools to help keep students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) on track. This can include making sure they know which jobs are

out there, helping the students select classes, preparing for job interviews, and even assisting with professional clothing.

The participating schools are Luna Community College, New Mexico Highlands University, the campuses of the University of New Mexico at Los Alamos and Taos, and Santa Fe Community College. The Regional Development Corporate (supported by Los Alamos National Security, LLC) and Accelerate sponsored the programs.

For more information on the Accelerate program, go to <http://acceleratenm.org/>.

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